

Submitter: Ruth Garcia
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2141

I am writing to respectfully express opposition to HB2141. The profession of interior design is broad, nuanced, and impactful. It is a wonderfully creative field that attracts some very talented and hardworking people. However, none of this justifies the state turning this into a registered profession with all of the associated gatekeeping, bureaucracy, and costs to taxpayers and the public.

Let's be honest: this is about protecting the profession, not the public. The public's risk from working with a non-registered interior designer is virtually zero. NCIDQ certification exists for interior designers and they are welcome to promote themselves with this certification to boost their credibility with potential clients. Providing a registry managed by the state for interior designers to use to market themselves is not in the public interest.

Interior designers do not have to fulfill the same rigorous education, examination, and continuing education requirements as architects and conflating the professions is disingenuous. Burdening the Oregon State Board of Architect Examiners with regulating interior designer is inefficient and unnecessary.

We have seen other professions attempt to require registration and licensure and frankly it only serves to reduce competition, limit who can practice, limit innovation and increase costs to consumers, all under the guise of "protecting" the public. This kind of gatekeeping hurts women, minorities, and small businesses that may lack the resources to meet new regulations.

The process of building buildings in Oregon has become overwhelmingly complex and expensive, which exacerbates our housing crisis and raises the cost of living for everyone. Adding more regulation and bureaucracy to this field only makes it worse. You will notice that 100% of the people advocating for this bill are interior designers or friends of interior designers. No one can cite an example of a member of the public being harmed by working with an under qualified interior designer. This is attempting to solve a problem that does not exist.

I urge you to oppose this bill.